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Minesweeper: The Role of the Motor Minesweeper in World War II

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wryly describes. More importantly, the humor and wisdom of this chapter has lured them deeper into the book, and I have had some difficulty retrieving it from them. That Schreadley can command the attention of students who balk at attempts to read Lynn White or even Garrett Mattingly underscores the readability of *From the Rivers to the Sea*.

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Melvin, Michael J. *Minesweeper: The Role of the Motor Minesweeper in World War II*. Worcester, England: Square One, 1992. 174pp. \$20

Mine warfare had a significant if unheralded impact on naval operations in World War II. Germany's minelaying efforts were especially effective, given that the Allies in general, and the Royal Navy in particular, were not prepared to conduct a major mine countermeasures campaign. That the Royal Navy defeated the Axis mine threat is a testament to the courage and determination of its minesweeping crews, who were predominantly civilian trawlers mobilized along with their trawlers to fight the war in the United Kingdom's territorial waters. The shift from a defensive war at home to power projection operations throughout the world forced the Royal Navy to expand this force dramatically. *Minesweeper* is the story of the Motor Minesweeper Units, or the coastal waters mine countermeasures force, which grew from less than eighteen part-time reserve units in 1939 to over nine

hundred boats, built in yards located all over the world, by 1945.

Written by a veteran of the motor minesweepers, Michael Melvin, the book traces the history of the force from its start in the pre-war period, to the design debates in the war's early days over the new motor minesweepers, the construction and employment of the force as it grew, the Allies' dependence upon the mine countermeasures effort, and finally its dissolution in 1946.

This work is an interesting record of the achievements, sacrifice, and courage of a little-known group of men, whose fight began the first day of the war and did not end until the last known minefield was swept—over one year after the official end of World War II.

CARL O. SCHUSTER
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Drea, Edward J. *MacArthur's ULTRA: Codebreaking and the War against Japan, 1942–1945*. Lawrence: Univ. of Kansas Press, 1992. 296pp. (No price given)

Much has been published regarding the exploits of Allied codebreakers in the European and Pacific theaters of World War II, and also about the operational uses of cryptologically derived information, which became known as "ULTRA" in both theaters of war—at sea in the Battle of the Atlantic and in the Central Pacific, as well as in the ground wars in Africa and also western and southern Europe. However, little has appeared on the handling and use of ULTRA in the Pacific ground war, especially in the forgotten campaign